

Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, July 13, 1800, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ROBERT HAYS.

South West Point, 1 July 13, 1800

1 South West Point was at the confluence of the Clinch and Tennessee rivers and at the southwest corner of the region obtained from the Cherokee by Governor Blount in the treaty of 1791. It was one mile from Kingston and thirty-five from Knoxville. At this time the federal government kept a garrison at South West Point, to go as guards on the road through the unsettled mountain wilderness to the westward, which was still in Indian hands. Capt. Robert Purdy commanded this guard.

D'r Colo. I take the earliest opportunity by Capt Emus Bird, to inform you that this morning I reached this place, without the smallest accident happening, all well and high in spirits, your Sweet little Daughter (who has behaved more like a woman of mature age, than anything else) has been much delighted with the mountains and differrent Prospects and has passed the mountains without the least apparent fear. My horses behaved well, after I left you I never had the second Pull at any place, and with Columbus I was obliged to pull the waggoner up Spencers hill. I am now with the ladies in the garrison where we have been recd. with every mark of Politeness and attention. I shall leave this on Tuesday morning and will write you at every stage where time will Permit. I had the Pleasure to meet Capt Purdy on the Top of cumberland mountain who was Polite enough to give orders to three of his soldiers to help us down the mountain and accompanied us himself. I have forwarded to him a letter of Introduction to you Should he deliver it, before I return,

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extend your usual Politeness to him and it shall be gratefully remembered by me. to cut matters short he is a d—nd. Clever fellow as you could meet with in a thousand. . . .